

MAR 24 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

THROUGH: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

SUBJECT: U. S. Prisoners of War Remaining in Communist Custody.

REFERENCES: a. Memo fm C/S, USAF, dtd 16 Mar '54, Subj. as above.

b. Memo fm Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, D/A, dtd 14 Aug '53, Subj. "Post Korean Armistice Planning for Covert, Clandestine, and Related Activities."

1. Reference a. contains a request from Chief of Staff, USAF that CIA undertake to locate, identify, and recover U.S. Prisoners of War still in Communist custody.

2. This request is in most respects identical with reference b., which was received last August from the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, D/A.

3. The FI Staff has had a long standing requirement for information of this type, but so far has not obtained any worthwhile intelligence in this regard.

4. It is believed, as you are no doubt aware, that CIA has little or no operational capability to recover personnel from those areas in which POW's are being held in Manchuria, China, or the Soviet Union. In almost all such areas the priority of CIA effort is on the collection of early warning and order of battle information.

5. It is the opinion of this Staff that this Agency has no significant capabilities along the lines requested by the USAF.

6. It is therefore recommended that you sign the attached memorandum to Chief of Staff, USAF.

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DOCUMENT NO. _____
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
EX-104 (Rev. 1-55)
CLASS. AUTHORITY: _____
DATE: 17 MAR 1981
REVIEWER: _____

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Staff
United States Air Force

SUBJECT: United States Prisoners of War Remaining
in Communist Custody After Termination of
Exchange of Prisoners Under Korean
Armistice Agreement Terms.

1. Receipt is acknowledged of your memorandum dated 16 March 1954 on the above subject, asking Central Intelligence Agency to take action to locate, identify and recover U.S. POW's in Communist custody.

2. I agree with you fully that any accomplishment in this field would unquestionably have a salutary effect upon morale and would be of significant value in our national psychological program.

3. This Agency has had a continuing requirement for the development of information on the location of U.S. POW's. Any intelligence developed on this subject will be discussed promptly with Headquarters, United States Air Force. CIA then will consider in each case what steps, if any, can be taken to effect the release of the POW's involved. The inherent operational difficulties which would surround such an undertaking are clearly apparent, I am sure, to you.

4. The undertaking of any such action is predicated upon the availability of adequate operational intelligence. This agency does not have at the present time such adequate operational intelligence on which to base plans for liberating POW's under Communist control. Nor is it anticipated

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that CIA will have significant capabilities along these lines so long as operating conditions continue to follow the present pattern.

5. In compliance with your request, CIA will continue to endeavor to develop the required intelligence on POW's in Communist hands and will maintain appropriate contact with your headquarters on this subject.

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ALLEN W. DULLES
Director


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24 March 1954

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*Concur
CPC
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v 4 May*

Attachment: 1 - as stated in
par. 6 above

COORDINATED:

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[Redacted]

Chief, FE Div.

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[Redacted]

D Chief FI

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23 March 1954

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